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Comments on the proposed Classed Guide of Russian Accessions -- Library of Congress.

1. Closer inspection of the suggested categories reveals numerous contradictions. There is an over-all vagueness about many of the classifications used and it is difficult to understand the general rationale for their selection.

2. This is particularly true for the headings under 6. "Manufactures and food industries," and 7. "Mechanical engineering and machinery." The classifications used are neither related to the US standard industrial classifications nor to Soviet terminology.

3. "Manufactures and food industries" appears to be devoted mainly to light industry with the exception of f. "metalworking" and j. "welding." Why isn't metalworking classified under Mechanical engineering and presses? Pressing machinery under 7.b. appears to be completely out of place. Section 6. may include material on industry only and section 7. may be more product oriented. If this is so it is not made clear. It is hard to justify welding as a separate category while ignoring such a major category as Machine-Tool Building (stanokostroyeniye). Adding the term "millwork" to 7.f. "machinery and millwork" makes this category even more vague.

4. In addition, there is no logical category for several major machine building items. Agricultural machinery, tractors, and chemical equipment would be particularly difficult to locate under this classification. The absence of any specific category for economic information is, of course, a defect from our point of view.

5. If the proposed classification system is adopted as now stands it will result in little saving of time and could possibly result in even more confusion. The sections on manufactures and mechanical engineering should be entirely reworked. A much more rational system could be devised that would prove to be a real aid to both the researcher familiar with Soviet industry and to the researcher familiar with US industrial terminology. We would be glad to assist the Library of Congress in preparing an improved classed guide on the manufacturing and mechanical engineering subjects.

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